

HB1196 – Sec 14

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my hopes that the governor and legislature will **NOT** approve the Land Swap in the Town of Haddam that is being proposed by Eileen Daily

The arrangement on the surface sounds like a Win-Win situation whereby a developer will get 17 Acres of developable land in a prime location in exchange for 87 Acres of land in a much less prime location, but which would extend the large forest block of Cockaponsett State Forest. The developer could make a lot of money and the conservationists would see a much larger piece of land preserved.

However, actually doing this would be totally unacceptable. The 17 Acres was purchased as Open Space by the DEP IN 2003 and is owned by the State. According to the deed, the property was to remain "in its scenic or its open condition as a park or public open space." This agreement should be honored. If it is NOT I believe a terrible precedent might be established, and other open space parcels and parks would be vulnerable to development. The 17 Acres is officially preserved Park/Open Space, and it should remain so.

Please make sure that legislation allowing this outrageous land swap is defeated. It should be.

Thank You,

Ellen Lukens
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